

**SUNDAY- JANUARY 28, 2024 -9:00 AM**



**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

*A family in faith, reaching out to share in God's love  
with all people.*

MINISTERS  
PASTOR  
INTERN

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH  
JOHN TWITON  
ZACHARY SMIRRIS

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany| 9:00 AM  
(+ = stand if able; L = Leader / **C** = **Congregation**)

**PRELUDE** Diane Dangerfield

*You are encouraged to use the time during the Prelude for quiet reflection and preparing for worship*

**WELCOMING WORD:** *This day the scriptures call God's people to faithful worship, care for neighbors, and recall the promise that God's love has a powerful claim on all of our lives. We take time this day to recognize our commitment to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation, striving to proclaim God's love and welcome to everyone.*

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:**

**# 841 - Lift Every Voice and Sing**

**WORD OF WELCOME** – Mark Mostrom

**GREETING**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (*2 Corinthians 13:13*)

**C: And also, with you.**

L: In the beginning was the Word,

**C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

L: In the Word was life,

**C: and the life was the light of all people.**

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

**C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.** (*John 1*)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Holy and Living God,

**C: we open to you this day. May peace flow and let justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream. Open our eyes and help us to see that no one is outside your love; outside our love. Remind us that we are not alone thanks to your abiding presence and the ministry of the Reconciling in Christ program, through Jesus Christ, the free gift of grace. Amen.**

## CONGREGATIONAL SONGS:

*Let There Be Peace On Earth  
Draw the Circle Wide*

### FIRST READING – Amos 5:21-24

I despise and reject your feasts! I am not appeased by your solemn assemblies! When you offer me burnt offerings, I reject your oblations, and refuse to look at your sacrifices of fattened cattle! Spare me the racket of your chanting! Relieve me of the strumming of your harps! Instead, let justice flow like a river, and righteousness flow like an unending stream.

### SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-39

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 48)

L: The Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 10,

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

### GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

<sup>4</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.' But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor

to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

+L: The Gospel of the Lord

**+C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **CHOIR ANTHEM: "One More Step"**

**MESSAGE** Intern Zach Smirris

**HYMN - *New Patterns of Loving***

(sung to the tune of "Immortal, Invisible")

### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION (WOV p. 49)**

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.** (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. \* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**pray in the Holy Spirit.** (*Jude 20*)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (*Jude 21*)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!** (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen**

**REFLECTION** – Kimberly Sailor

**OFFERING** –

**MUSIC BY PRAISE TEAM:** *Hymn to Freedom*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER:** Let us pray. Merciful God, **in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness, we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**THE PRAYERS** – led by Adam Mertz

(As the leader concludes each petition with the words:

“Lord in your mercy...” The people respond: **Hear our prayer.**)

**+THE LORD’S PRAYER** (pg. 145) (right hand column)

**SENDING**

**COMMUNITY WORD**

**+BLESSING**

L: May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again.

**C: Amen.**

**+CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** - *Sing a New World into Being*

(sung to the tune of Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing)

**+DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**WE WELCOME ALL TO ELC!**

*Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.*

## **DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28, 2024**

**SHARE:** What are your highs/lows for today?

**READ:** Read the daily readings to deepen your understanding:

**Monday,** Psalm 35:1-10, Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

**Tuesday,** Numbers 22:22-28, Balaam, the Donkey, and the Angel

**Wednesday,** Jeremiah 29:1-14, Jeremiah's Letter

**Thursday,** Psalm 147:1-11, 20, Praise for God's Care for Jerusalem

**Friday,** Luke 2:22-40, Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

**Saturday,** Isaiah 46:1-13, God Who Carries Israel

**TALK:** Consider some of these ideas:

**"But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,  
'And who is my neighbor?'"  
- Luke 10:29**

*Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.*

- How easy is it to replace 'religious ceremony' with living a kingdom focused life? (Amos 5:18-24)
- How do you imagine the Spirit interceding? Does the Spirit pray like we do or work in us? (Rom 8:26-39)
- If we define neighbors as "those who need us," who are you neighbors? (Lk 10:29)

**PRAY:** Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**BLESS:** God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always. Amen.